

HB 643 -- SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS

SPONSOR: Wood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 9 to 4.

This bill changes the calculation of "full-time equivalent average daily attendance of summer school students" by modifying the divisor of such calculation. Currently, the divisor is "the number of hours required in Section 160.011, RSMo, in the school term." This bill changes the divisor to "the actual number of hours school was in session in the school term."

PROPONENTS: Supporters say this is a very simple bill. This would make summer school paid at the same rate as the regular school year. It would save almost \$8 million. That money would not go back to general revenue but would instead go back to the formula and be distributed to all schools in the state. This is a more sensible ADA for summer school.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Wood.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that foundation formulas are very difficult and complicated things. In 1993 summer school was double funded, kids were counted twice for summer school. It was way too rich. That was reduced in 2005. The question is, how low do you get before schools don't have summer school? Think we are getting close to that number.

Summer school helps fund them for the rest of the year and pays for meals that the school does provide during the summer. Those that oppose the bill would be open to modifications to make this equitable such as how long summer school can be.

Testifying against the bill were Catapult Learning, LLC, and Suzanne Dezego, Catapult Learning.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say summer school can sometimes be required perhaps in relation to reading testing that isn't at a certain level.

Everyone should take a look at the simulation ran by Representative Wood. The simulation does not account for an increase in the state adequacy target, which is a result of lowering the average daily attendance number.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri National Education Association and Scott Kimbel.